

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 8-14 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, new claims 21-26 are added. Claims 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Potsch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,788,180; hereinafter “Potsch”) in view of Takagi (U.S. Patent No. 6,033,057; hereinafter “Takagi”). Claims 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Potsch in view of Surina (U.S. Patent No. 6,205,898; hereinafter “Surina”). Applicant submits the arguments below in traversal.

Rejection of Claims 6 and 18 under § 103(a) over Potsch in view of Takagi

Applicant submits that claim 6 is patentable because Takagi is nonanalogous art and cannot be properly used as a basis for a § 103 rejection. M.P.E.P. § 2141.01(a). In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection of an applicant's invention, the reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. *Id.*

Takagi relates to a toner roller transfer roller used in a printing device. Specifically, Takagi seeks to provide a uniform layer of toner onto a transfer roller by disposing a blade next to the transfer roller. Col. 2, lines 34-38. The section of Takagi cited by the Examiner describes a prior art image forming device 100 including a blade 118 disposed next to a transfer roller 114 to regulate the amount of toner on the transfer roller 114. Col. 2, lines 20-26. The blade 118 is described as having a rounded tip portion R. Col. 2, lines 26-27. A similar blade 18 having an arc-shaped tip is shown in Fig. 3. Col. 4, lines 22-24.

Clearly, Takagi is directed to printing devices, i.e., to regulating the amount of toner on a transfer roller, which is entirely different from the field of the current invention which relates to cutting off a thin flat workpiece such as film or the like.

Further, the reference is not even reasonably pertinent to the invention because the blade 118 of Takagi is used for loose toner particles whereas the disk-shaped blade is used to cut workpieces. The impracticality of cutting workpieces with the blade 118 of Takagi only highlights the nonanalogous nature of Takagi to the present invention.

Claim 18, which depends from claim 6, is patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 6.

Rejection of Claims 17, 19 and 20 under § 103(a) over Potsch in view of Surina

Applicant submits that claim 17 is patentable because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. In the Office Action, the Examiner concedes that Potsch fails to disclose a means for transmitting driving force between the drum shaft and the disk shaft, but cites Surina as disclosing such a feature. The Examiner, however, states that one would have combined the teachings of Potsch and Surina “to minimize the complexity of the apparatus by reducing the drive means from two to one.” Applicant submits that the Examiner’s purported motivation is unsupportable given that Potsch does not disclose two drive means. Rather, only the anvils 53 are driven whereas the knives 52 are not. Col. 4, lines 29-42. As a result, the Examiner has not provided a proper motivation to combine the teachings of Potsch and Surina and, thus, one skilled in the art would not combine the teachings of Potsch and Surina to render claim 17 obvious.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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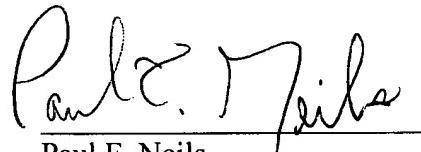
Claims 19 and 20, which depend from claim 17, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 17.

Lastly, Applicant adds new claims 21-26 to further define the invention. The new claims 21-26 are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for their respective base claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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